

Please find below, Utah State Parks and Recreation news for March 30:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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stateparks.utah.gov

- Utah State Parks Statewide Grooming Ends April 1
- Upcoming Utah State Parks Events

UTAH STATE PARKS STATEWIDE GROOMING ENDS APRIL 1

Salt Lake -- With the onset of spring conditions across much of the state, Utah State Parks and Recreation announces an end to its 2010 snowmobile trail grooming season effective April 1.

Utah State Parks operates 11 snowmobile trail groomers on nine snowmobile trail complexes in the state. These complexes stretch from Logan Canyon to Cedar Mountain.

"We've had a tremendous snowmobile season," said Fred Hayes, off-highway vehicle program coordinator with Utah State Parks. "Since we began grooming in November, our groomers have maintained more than 25,000 miles of trail for public use." He added that spring conditions are now limiting groomer access on many complexes, and with current budgetary constraints, it's time to wrap up the season.

Hayes says there is still some great riding in some of Utah's high country, but encourages snowmobilers to exercise caution.

"Avalanche dangers remain and snowmobilers should avoid areas where avalanche activity has been noted," said Hayes. "We also encourage all backcountry users to get an avalanche advisory before heading out, and to always wear an avalanche beacon and take along a shovel and probe."

For additional information, please call (801) 538-7220 or 1-800-OHV-RIDE.

Utah State Parks and Recreation administers the state off-highway vehicle program, providing education, access, maintenance, and enforcement.

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UPCOMING UTAH STATE PARKS EVENTS

April 14 Dead Horse Point State Park - Moab
Desert Amphibians: Join us at 7:30 p.m. at the visitor center amphitheater to discover the world of desert amphibians. How do amphibians survive in the desert

where water is limited? If conditions are right, this program will involve a one-mile, round-trip hike. (435) 259-2614

April 16 Escalante Petrified Forest State Park - Escalante
Starry Skies: Enjoy our famous dark skies as we take a tour through the galaxy using the park's new Orion SkyQuest telescope. Dress warmly and meet at the visitor center at 9 p.m. (435) 826-4466

April 16 Dead Horse Point State Park - Moab
Desert Ethics: Join us at 7:30 p.m. to learn how to use the land with minimum impact. Take a short hike to explore the fragile desert ecosystem and discover what you can do to protect the desert. (435) 259-2614

April 17 Dead Horse Point State Park - Moab
Leapin' Lizards! Join the park naturalist for a half-hour program about reptiles. Test your reptile knowledge, learn what lives at Dead Horse Point and get inside the mind of a rattlesnake. Meet at the visitor center amphitheater at 7:30 p.m. (435) 259-2614

April 17 Escalante Petrified Forest State Park - Escalante
Junior Ranger Program - Fabulous Fossils: Explore Earth's ancient history and discover different kinds of fossils and how they form. Make your own fossil to take home and earn a Junior Ranger Badge. Meet at the visitor center at 10 a.m. (435) 826-4466

April 17 Frontier Homestead State Park Museum – Cedar City
Cub Scout Adventure Day: Cub scouts and their leaders may participate in hands-on activities and a handcart adventure. All activities fulfill requirements toward the Year of Celebration Cub Scout patch. Sessions run from 8 to 10 a.m., 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Cost is \$2 per scout with free admission for leaders. Space is limited and reservations are required. (435) 586-9290

April 18 Dead Horse Point State Park - Moab
Geology of Dead Horse Point: Meet at the visitor center amphitheater at 7:30 p.m. and discover the processes that contributed to the incredible scenery of Dead Horse Point. (435) 259-2614

April 19 Dead Horse Point State Park - Moab
Incredible Insects: Desert insects have unique adaptations enabling them to survive and thrive. Learn about local insects and explore the desert to see what you can find. Meet at the visitor center amphitheater at 7:30 p.m. for this half-hour program. (435) 259-2614

April 20 Dead Horse Point State Park - Moab
Plants and People of the Colorado Plateau: Join the park naturalist for a 30-minute program about the plants and people of the Colorado Plateau. Find out how prehistoric Indians lived in the area. Meet at the visitor center amphitheater at 7:30 p.m. (435) 259-2614